

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been amended.

Claims 8-11 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-7 and 12-28 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 1, 4, and 12 are in independent format.

1. Election / Restrictions

The Examiner's election / restriction requirement identifying Invention I (consisting of Claims 1-3 and 8-11) and Invention II (consisting of Claims 4-7 and 12-28) is respectfully traversed. Applicant elects to proceed with the prosecution of Claims directed towards Invention II.

The Examiner has stated that the apparatus of Invention II cannot be used to practice Invention I because it does not include a brokerage-terminal required to facilitate brokerage operations of Invention I, and as such, Invention I can be practiced by another materially different apparatus. Claims 1-3 have been amended to fall within the scope of Invention II, to eliminate the limitation of a brokerage-terminal, and to rephrase the limitations of Claims 1-3 in terms of the first, second, third, and fourth interfaces as set forth in the claims of Invention II. Hence, the apparatus of Invention II can now clearly be utilized to practice Invention I, and Invention I cannot be practiced by another materially different apparatus.

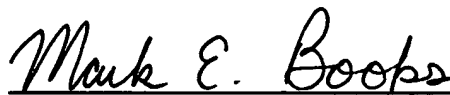
Claims 8-11 of Invention I have been cancelled.

2. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, the examination of claims 1-7 and 12-28 is requested.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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